

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 18-21, and 24 as follows:

18. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the purge gas comprises at least 95% by volume of at least one of Ne and He.

19. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the purge gas comprises from 94 to 96 % by volume N₂ and from 4 to 6% by volume of at least one of Ne and He.

20. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein λ_1 is about 633nm, λ_2 is about 532nm and λ_3 is about 266nm.

21. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said purge gas supply comprises a gas flow regulator to control a rate of flow of purge gas to said space and a pump to remove purge gas from said space.

24. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said radiation of said projection beam has a wavelength less than about 180nm.

Please see the attached Appendix for the changes made to effect the above claims.